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Message Text

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71
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCCT-02 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-10 SPC-03 OC-06

OPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01

SS-20 SY-10 NEA-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 DRC-01 INRE-00 /143 W
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O R 011851Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5503
INFO USCINCSO
DIA DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1550

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, AR
SUBJ: CRISIS CONTINUES IN CORDOBA PROVINCE

1. SUMMARY: PROVISIONAL GOVERNOR WAS SWORN IN LAST NIGHT IN CORDOBA. NEITHER GOV OBREGON CANO NOR VICE GOV ATILIO LOPEZ HAVE RESIGNED, HOWEVER AND BOTH STILL BEING HELD BY PROVINCIAL POLICE. SITUATION THEREFORE WOULD APPEAR TO REMAIN UNRESOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. RIGHT WING LABOR LEMENTS YESTERDAY (FEB 28) CALLED ON FEDERAL GOVT TO INTERVENE PROVINCE. LATTER DID NOT COMPLY, HOWEVER. INSTEAD, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH PRESIDENT PERON, DEF MINISTER ROBLEDO AND OTHERS, INTERIOR MIN LLAMBI AT 6:30 PM ISSUED STATEMENT DECLARING THAT GOA, IN FULL RESPECT FOR PRINCIPLE OF FEDERALISM, HOPED SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND WITHING PROVINCE ITSELF.

3. JUDGE OF PROVINCIAL COURT MEANWHILE HAD CHARGED POLICE CHIEF
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NAVARRO WITH SEDITION. SHORTLY AFTER INTERIOR MINS STATE

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MENT, FEDERAL JUDGE IN CORDOBA UPHELD PROVINCIAL COURT AND GAVE NAVARRO FIVE HOURS TO CEASE HIS SEDITIOUS ACTIVITY.

4. POSSIBLY AS RESPONSE, JUST AFTER 10 PM PRESIDENT OF PROVINCIAL CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, MARIO DANTE AGODINO, WAS SWORN IN AS PROVISIONAL GOVERNOR. REPORTEDLY, HIS FIRST ACT WAS TO ORDER RELEASE OF OBREGON CANO AND ATILIO LOPEZ. AS OF EARLY MORNING HOURS, THERE NO INDICATION THEY RELEASED NOR EXCEPT FOR FACT PROVISIONAL AUTHORITIES CONSTITUTED, WAS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT NAVARRO HAD GIVEN UP HIS "SEDITIOUS ACTIVITY".

5. PROVINCIAL CONSTITUITION PROVIDES THAT IN EVENT GO AND VICE GOV UNABLE TO EXERCISE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY, IT SHALL BE EXERCISED TEMPORARILY BY PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF PROVINCIAL SENATE (SHO OUT OF PROVINCE), OR BY PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. SINCE BOTH OBREGON CANO AND ATILIO LOPEZ STLL HELD BY PROVINCIAL POLICE AND THEREFORE UNABLE TO EXERCISE AUTHROTY, AGODINO CAN LEGALLY ACT AS PROVISIONAL GOVERNOR. BUT NEITHER OBREGON CANO NOR ATILIO LOPEZ HAVE RESIGNED; HENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW, AGODINO WOULD HAVE TO TURN POWER BACK TO THEM ONCE THEY ABEL TO EXERCISE IT (I.E. WHEN THEY ARE FREED). ON OTHER HAND CONSTITUTION REQUIRES THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNOR CALL FOR NEW ELECTIONS WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. NAVARRO MAY ATTEMPT TO HOLD THEM UNTIL AFTER THAT DONE, THUS PROVIDING SOME SEMBLANCE OF ARGUMENT THAT THEIR TERMS HAVE EXPIRED. NEEDLESS TO SAY HOWEVER IT WILL CREATE EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION (EVEN MORE EXTRA-ORDINARY THAN IT IS ALREADY) IF GOV AND VICE GOV ARE ARBITRARILY HELD UNDER LOCK AND KEY THAT LONG. HENCE PROBELM APPEARS TO BE FAR FROM SOLVED. RIGHT WING WILL DOUBTLESS ATTEMPT TO FORCE THE TWO TO RESIGN, BUT THERE LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE THEY WILL COMPLY. AND IF THEY DO NOT RESIGN, FICTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION THROUGH APPOINTMENT OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNOR MAY BEGIN TO COLLAPSE.

6. LOOMING PROBLEM TOO IS REACTION OF LEFT WHICH HAS AS YET TO BE HEARD FROM. SO FAR THEY HAVE BEEN MOSTLY WATCHING AND WAITING TO SEE WHAT FEDERAL GOVT WILL DO. AGUSTIN TOSCOS CALL YESTERDAY FOR POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF OBREGON CANO WENT LARGELY UNHEEDED. AS CONSEQUENCE, SITUATION IN CORDOBA HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET. THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW SCUFFLES AND A FEW CONFIDENTIAL

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WOUNDED AND RIGHT WING COMMANDO SQUADS HAVE BOMBED HOMES OF A FEW LEFTISTS, BUT IN GENERAL THERE HAS BEEN REMARKABLY LITTEL VIOLENCE FOR SO VOLATIVE A SITUATION. LEFT UNLIKELY INDIDFINITELY TO TAKE MATTER SUPINELY, HOWEVER. UNLESS MATTER RESOLVED WITH MORE FINESSE THAN HERETOFORE DISPLAYED BY FEDERAL GOVT, SOONER OR LATER LEFT LIKELY TO REACT VIOLENTLY--ESPECIALLY LEFTIST LABOR ELEMENTS WHO LAST NIGHT SAW RUMP SESSION STEAL CGT LEADERSHIP AWAY FROM THEM. (SEE SEPTEL).

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7. OTHER PARTIES MOREOVER HAVE ALMOST UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNDED TAKE OVER IN CORDOBA AS ILLEGAL ACT WHICH MUST NOT BE COUNTENANCED BY FEDERAL GOVT. UCRS ALFONSIN HAS DESCRIBED IT AS A STEP TOWARD FASCISM AND IS DEMANDING THAT IN VIEW OF WHAT IT SUGGEST ABOUT GOVT, UCR DROP ITS POSTURE OF COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE WITH LATTER. UCR MAJORITY UNDER BALBIN NOT YET WILLING TAKE SUCH AN EXTREME VIEW BUT THEY TOO ARE VERY DISTRUBED. UCR SENATOR ANGELOS CALLED BALBIN FROM CORDOBA YESTERDAY AND ASKED HIM TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY WITH PERON--WHICH BALBIN MAY WELL TRY.

8. SITUATIONS IN OTHER PROVINCES RELATIVELY QUIET. POLICE WAGE DISPUTE IN MENDOZA APPARENTLY HAS BEEN SETTLED SATISFACTORILY AND ALL POLICE ARE REPORTEDLY BACK AT WORK.

9. COMMENT: EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT PERON HIMSELF WAS BEHIND TAKEOVER POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH COULD HURT HIM BADLY--POSSIBLY EVEN RIPPING APART NATIONAL CONSENSUS HE HAS SO CAREFULLY NURTURED. FURTHER PERON IS MASTER POLITICIAN AND POLITICAL STRATEGIST. HE COULD HAVE FOUND LESS CLUMSY AND OBVIOUS DEVICE THAN POLICE REVOLT TO ACCOMPLISH ENDS. IT IS ON OTHER HAND ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THE MORE UNSOPHISTICATED RIGHT WING TYPES SUCH AS COL OSINDE WERE INDEED INVOLVED. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THT HAVARRO WOULD HAVE ACTIED WITHOUT SOME ENCOURGATEMENT. NO MATTER WHAT THE DEGREEE AND LEVEL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS ORIGINAL COMPLICTY, HOWEVER THE FACT IS THAT IT SEEMS SO FAR TO BE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE REVOLT AND HAS NOT ACTED TO UPHOLD THE LAW. IT HAS ON THE CONTRARY,STOOD ASIDE WHILEL MAJOR ACT OF LAWLESSNESS HAS TAKEN PLACE AND WHILE FORCES SWORN TO EONFORCE LAW HAVE FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED IT AND HELF GOVERNOR AND VICE GOV PRISONER. MATTER IS STILL OPEN AND PERON MAY YET HAVE MORE VIABLE SOLUTION UP HIS SLEEVE. IF PRESENT SITUATION IS ALLOWED TO STAND HOWEVER IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE ARE PROFOUNDLY DISTURBING.
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